Among the dark phases of the Japanese occupation were the rapid extension of the sale and use of narcotics, the dissensions and corruption among Japanese officialdom, and the ruthless treatment of the Chinese.

The Japanese slowly tightened the noose of blockade around the unoccupied portions of China. They had full command of the sea and of most of the main ports. Supplies still reached "free" China through the blockade. They also went in by way of Hongkong, for that was in British hands, and by the railway from French Indo-China to Kunming, formerly Yiinnanfu, the leading city of the province of Yunnan. Moreover, with a prodigal expenditure of human labor a track traversible by automobiles was built from the China side of the border to connect with roads and railways in Burma. This was what became famous as the "Burma Road." It was more a symbol and an aid to morale than in goods transported, for it was narrow, in places tortuous, and traversed high divides and deep canyons. Yet it gave connection with Rangoon and so with the outer world, and some freight began to move over it. The Japanese made progress in plugging these holes. In the summer of 1940 the fall of France before German arms, the memorable defeat of the British at Dunkerque, and the threatened German invasion of the British Isles gave Japan the opportunity to bring pressure on these two powers. Through agreement with the Vichy regime in France, Japan sent troops into Indo-China and ended the shipment of supplies into "free" China by road and railway from the convenient ports in that region. In July, 1940, the British authorities, most reluctantly, felt constrained to suspend for three

months the shipment of goods to China by way of the Burma Road.

Moreover, for the time being Japan had nothing to fear from Russia. In a pact of April, 1941, framed at a time when Moscow was cooperating with the Axis powers, the two governments entered into a non-aggression agreement. The German invasion of Russia in the summer of 1941 engrossed all the energies of the Soviets on their European front. This meant that Russia was unwilling to enter into a war with Japan and thus to face foes on two fronts. Japan, accordingly, had nothing to fear from that quarter. Moreover, Russia, while maintaining correct diplomatic